

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04488 021731Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 021656Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7711

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, BGEN, ELAB, PO

SUBJ: GENERAL MOTORS LABOR PROBLEMS

1. GM MANAGEMENT REPORTS THAT OPERATIONS AT 500-MAN ASSEMBLY PLANT ARE BECOMING PARALYZED BECAUSE 19 SPOT-WELDERS HAVE GONE ON STRIKE. LESS SENIOR WELDERS MAINTAIN THAT UNDER CONSTITUTIONAL CLAUSE PROVIDING EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, THEY SHOULD GET EQUAL PAY REGARDLESS OF SENIORITY. STOPPAGE IN WELDING SHOP WILL SOON SHUT DOWN WHOLE PRODUCTION LINE.

2. WELDERS BEGAN SLOW-DOWN DURING WEEK OF JUNE 20 AND STOPPED COMPLETELY JULY 1. GM MAINTAINS THIS LABOR ACTION HAS ALREADY REDUCED PRODUCTION BY 180 UNITS. FOR INSTANCE, PLANT PRODUCED 13 UNITS ON JULY 1; NORMAL CAPACITY IS 42 UNITS.

3. GM MANAGEMENT TOLD WORKERS ON JULY 2 THAT WORK STOPPAGE WILL THREATEN JULY SALARY PAYMENT WHICH WILL INCLUDE THREE MONTHS' PAY (JULY, AUGUST VACATION MONTH AND VACATION BONUS). MANAGEMENT PLANS TO TELL WELDERS ON JULY 5 THAT THEY WILL NOT BE PAID FOR STRIKE TIME. MANAGEMENT STATES IT WILL CONSIDER SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS ON JULY 6 IF STRIKE NOT OVER BY THEN.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 04488 021731Z

4. GM MANAGEMENT DESIRES HANDLE SITUATION ALONE FOR MOMENT BUT WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED AND MAY REQUEST EMBASSY HELP IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS OR IN OBTAINING OFFICIAL GOP INTERVENTION TO END STRIKE.
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Message Attributes

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